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Saint John's University 1966-70: The Days (and Nights) of Our Lives, or, How Did Cecilia Get into My Bedroom?

Thom Woodward

College of Saint Benedict/Saint John's University, twoodward@csbsju.edu

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Saint John's University

1966-70



The Days (and Nights) of Our Lives

Or . . .



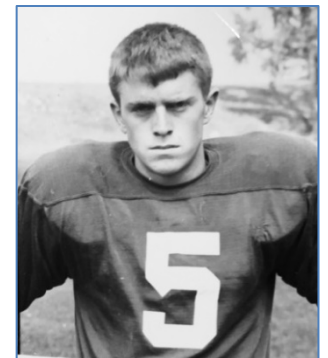
How Did Cecilia Get into My Bedroom?

50-year class reunion presentation

- October 2, 2021
- Created, delivered by Thom Woodward '70
 - Retired SJU director of alumni relations
 - Current volunteer assistant Johnnie baseball coach
- Centering on student newspaper headlines
- Including song snippets from 1966-70
 - Exception: Abba Dabba Honeymoon from 1914 used to compare, contrast songs heard by the SJU Class of 1916 and freshmen 50 years later

Traditional alumni programs

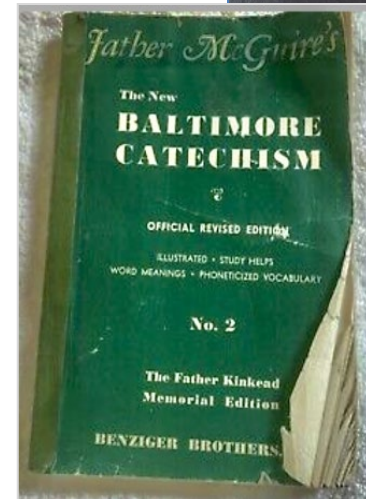
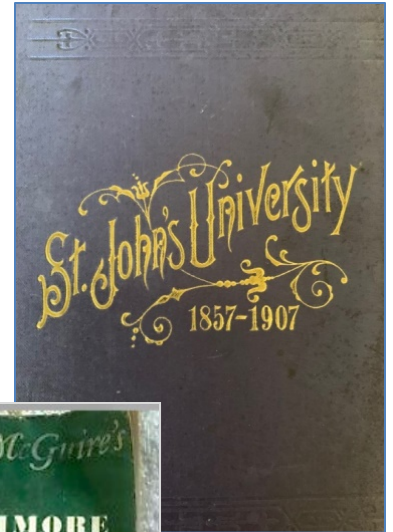
- SJU Alumni Association founded in 1882
- Homecoming
 - Remains a fall event based on the Johnnie football schedule
- Standups, reunions, networking
 - Class of 1970's 50-year reunion
 - Re-scheduled from 2020 due to pandemic
 - Those “old guys” from the Class of 1916 were celebrating their 50-year reunion as we freshmen in 1966 were just settling in
 - The transitive property for first-years in 2021



Songs accompanying this slide: Abba Dabba Honeymoon. 96 Tears.

Perennial common denominators

- Observations based on overlapping decades from the 1960s to the '20s
- Helping recruit for the Class of 2026
- Several constants
 - Benedictine presence
 - Emphasis on the liberal arts
 - Dorm life
 - Basis for the Johnnie Network
 - Good kids from good (mostly Catholic) families



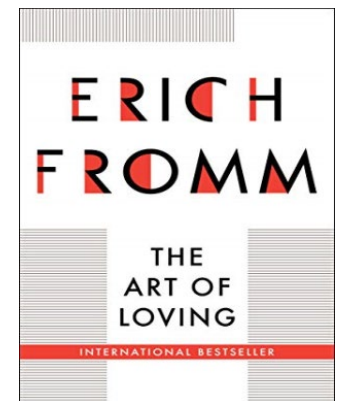
Enrollment figures 1966-67

- College of Arts and Sciences
 - Freshman 444
 - Sophomore 372
 - Junior 282
 - Senior 256
 - Total undergraduate including “special” 1,373
- School of Divinity
 - Seminarians 77



Record headline

- Sept. 30, 1966
- Organization eliminates confusion for freshmen
 - “Sunday, Sept. 11, will long be remembered by the Class of 1970” getting situated on campus
 - Orientation limits bewilderment for new students
 - All school dance, picnic, talent show
 - Discussion groups on assigned readings
 - *Secular City; The Art of Loving*



Record editorial aimed at freshmen

- “The business of a college education seems to wait until mid-semester grades”
- Realization that “possibly football and Bennies are not all that one must attend to at SJU”
- “It becomes necessary when adjusting to a college environment that a freshman ask himself what he should expect from Saint John’s and what is expected of him”



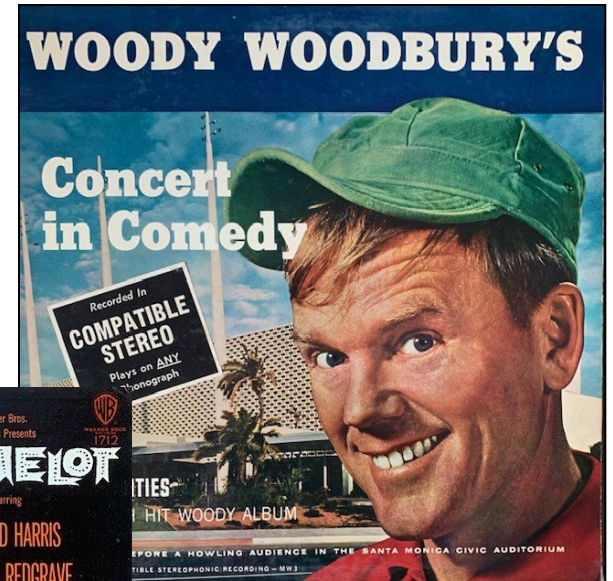
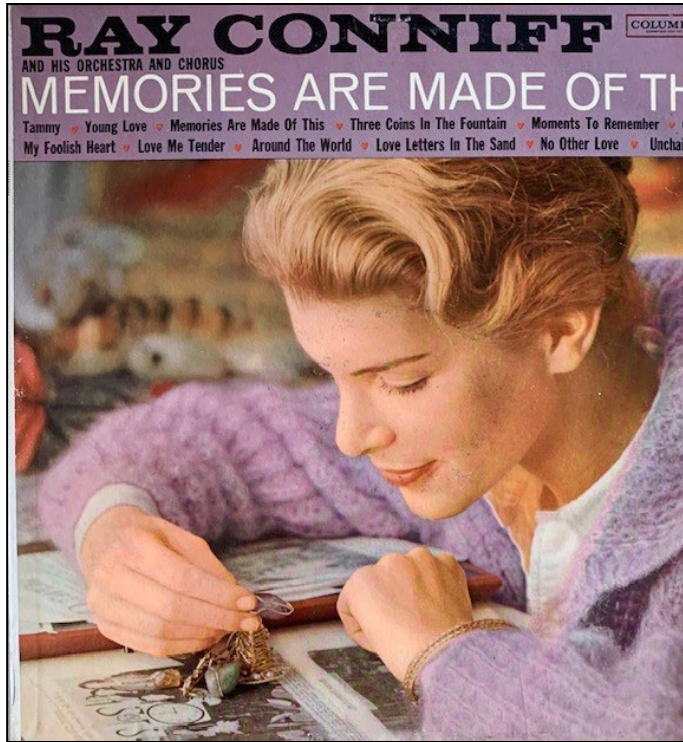
Our first-year experience

- Orderly 1966-67
 - Sign out, sign back onto campus
 - Saturday classes
 - Fall final exams taken in January
 - Broadcast restrictions on KSJU student station
 - Rock and roll limited to two hours per week
 - An abundance of middle of the road entertainment
 - Ray Conniff, Orchestra and Chorus
 - Bob Newhart and other comedians
 - The Kingston Trio and folk music



Somewhere My Love.

Memories are made of Ray Conniff?



Somewhere My Love.

Record recap of '66-67 highlights

- September: New dorms to add 350 rooms
- October: Joint honors program, KSJR-FM launched
- November: Saturday classes studied
- January: 4-1-4 curriculum change announced
- February: Debaters take trophies at Tulane
- May: Abbot appoints committee to study recreational needs; Tommy Hall rec room OK'd



And then . . .

- 1967-68

- New dorms
- January Term
- Disorder



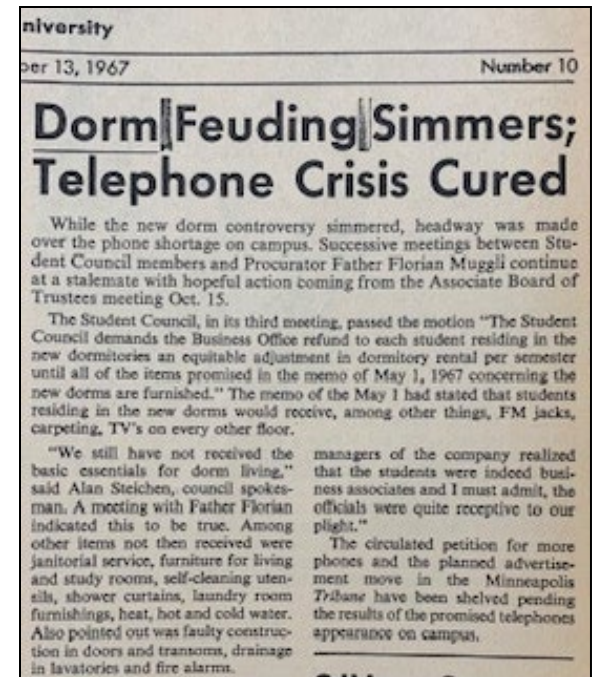
- Fall ROTC review, protest
- KSJU rocks new format
 - The Doors Light My Fire Billboard #1 Summer 1967
 - Simon and Garfunkel's Mrs. Robinson from The Graduate soundtrack charts in May
- The American Tribal Love-Rock Musical
 - Hair debuts on Broadway in Spring '68



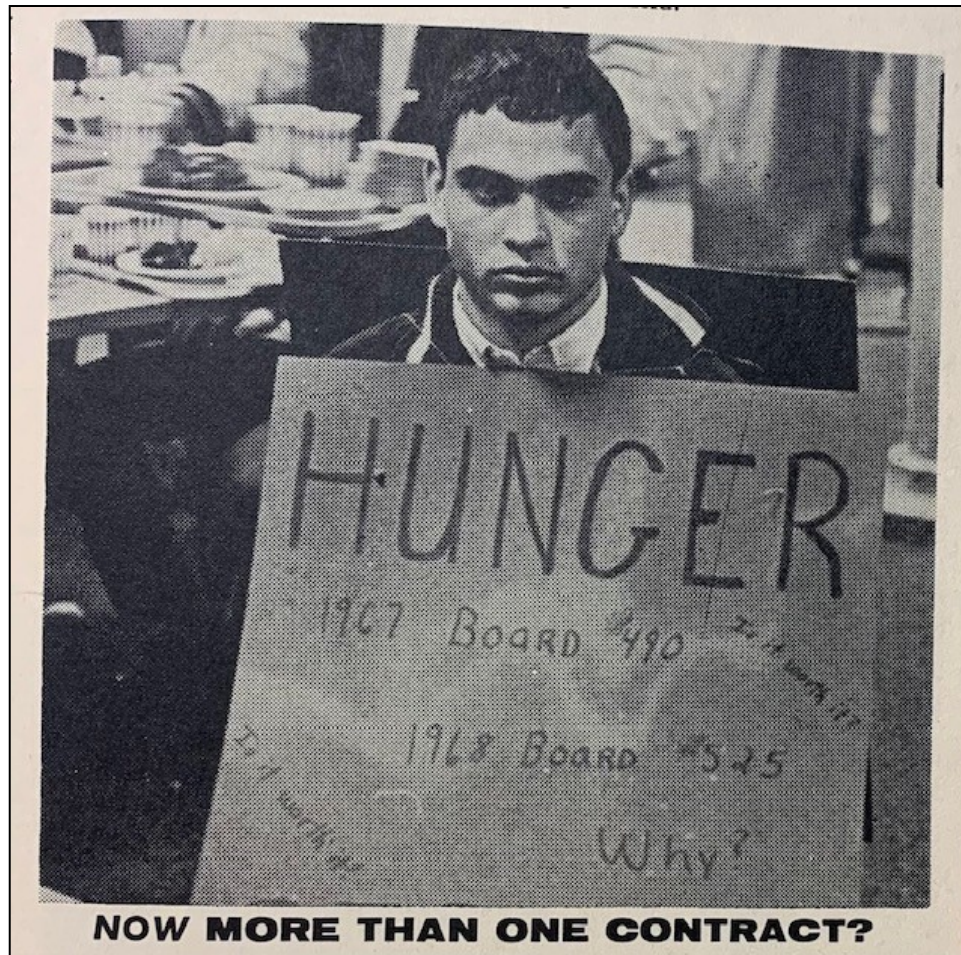
Light My Fire. Hair.

Record headline

- October 13, 1967
 - Dorm feuding simmers
 - Phone shortage on campus
 - “The Student Council demands the Business Office refund to each student residing in the new dorms an equitable adjustment in rental”
 - FM jacks, carpeting, TVs on every other floor have not been delivered as promised in the previous May



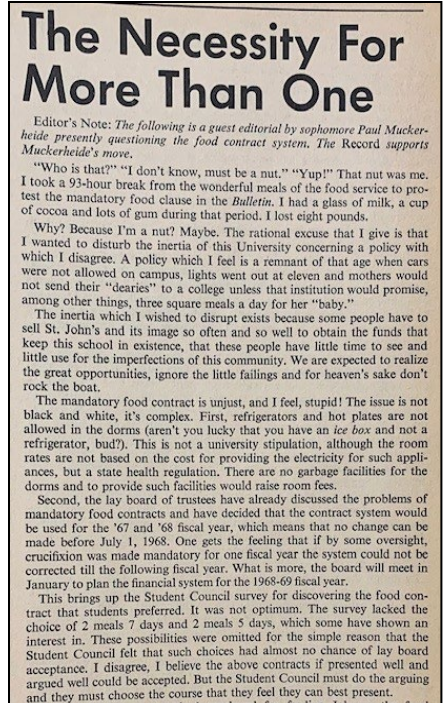
Classmate's hunger strike



Hungry.

Record guest column

- Sophomore Paul Muckerheide questions current food service contract
 - “Unjust, and I feel, stupid”
 - He calls for meal plan options
 - Challenges Student Council, Lay Board
 - Two meals seven days
 - Two meals five days
 - Notes that refrigerators and hot plates are not allowed in the dorms
 - “Aren’t you lucky you have an *ice box*, bud?”



Hungry.

Record headline

- Feb. 23, 1968 Record article
 - New ideas mark Marti Gras fling
 - Thanks, Tom Yseth
 - Feb. 25 dance features Kansas show band
 - The “Fabulous Flippers” were said to be “possibly the most popular band of its type in the country”
 - “The biggest dance that Saint John’s or Stearns County has ever experienced”

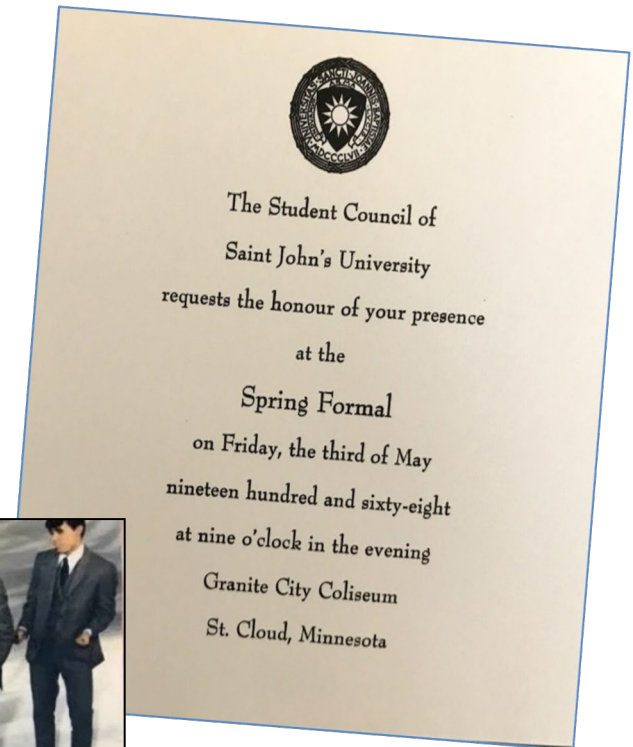


Harlem Shuffle.

Flings and Flippers



Record caption: The Flippers, a jazz and rhythm group, will kick off Mardi Gras festivities.



Harlem Shuffle.

Record headline

- March 12, 1968
 - McCarthy for president
 - Sen. Eugene McCarthy '35
 - Saint John's scholar
 - Johnnie hockey and baseball player
 - “Let’s begin anew ...”
 - Non-partisan McCarthy Center for Public Policy and Civic Engagement
 - Established at SJU in 2006



The Good, the Bad and the Ugly.

Record headline

- March 28, 1968
 - Combined Record, CSB Torch
 - Experimental issue
 - Article on modified CSB dress code
 - Bermuda shorts OK'd in Mary Commons (except Sundays)
 - Jeans OK'd (only for picnics and hikes)
 - Ellingsworth suggests co-institutions
 - War erupts at SJU Bookstore
 - “Who’s stealing from whom?”
 - Right Guard: \$1.49 vs \$.89



The Good, the Bad and the Ugly.

Record headline

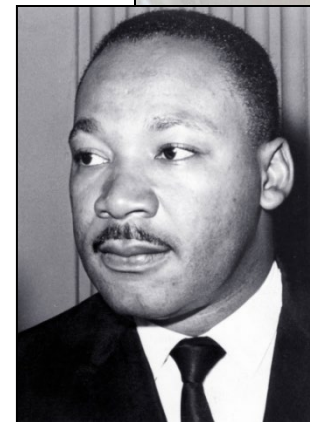
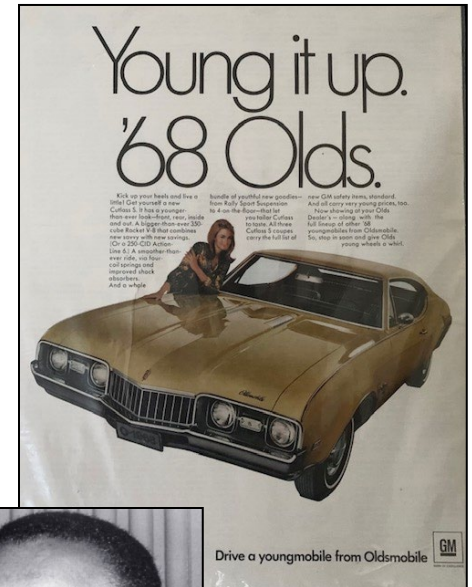
- May 7, 1968
- Board clarifies alcohol position
 - “Any student caught drinking on campus or observed in drink’s unfortunate aftermath is subject to sanction”
 - “J-Book” policy reiterated
 - Prior confusion caused by some Head Residents who gave a warning rather than doling out punishment
 - Three students given five-day suspension during the school year; five more on probation



The Good, the Bad and the Ugly.

The Class of '70 as upper classmen

- 1968-69
 - Living off campus as juniors
 - First MIAC basketball title
 - Assassinations
 - Still mourning Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
 - Robert F. Kennedy
 - Riots in American cities
 - Democrat convention in Chicago
 - Moon landing, Woodstock



Abraham, Martin and John.

Record headline

- September 6, 1968
- SJU-CSB Trustees say merger is desired
 - Stanford consultant suggests merger as soon as possible
 - Action would end increasing problems faced by each college
 - President Colman Barry notes advantages of pooled resources



Why Don't We Do It in the Road.

Record headline

- September 27, 1968
- Food Committee at work
 - Muckerheide chair; Hennessey co-chair
 - Weekly meetings for student in-put
 - New menu, kitchen equipment
- “Prof” gone; his book, music shop remain
 - Dr. Heininger leaves SJU History Department
 - Andy Biebl to operate Greg Shop; Bruce Campbell to oversee Mike Shop; Kevin Stengler to keep books



Hey Jude.

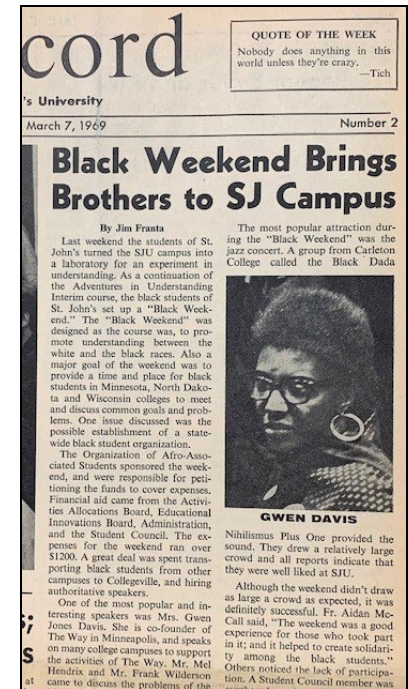
Record headline

- November 8, 1968
- Phy-ed dream to rise after 67 years
 - Multi-purpose center to replace 1901 gym
 - Fund drive to cover \$3 million-plus for building
 - Durenberger promotes interdependence of mind, body, spirit; life-long recreation activities
- Also that fall
 - Ceronsky leads cross country to MIAC championship

Note: Warner Palaestra opened in '73.

Record headline

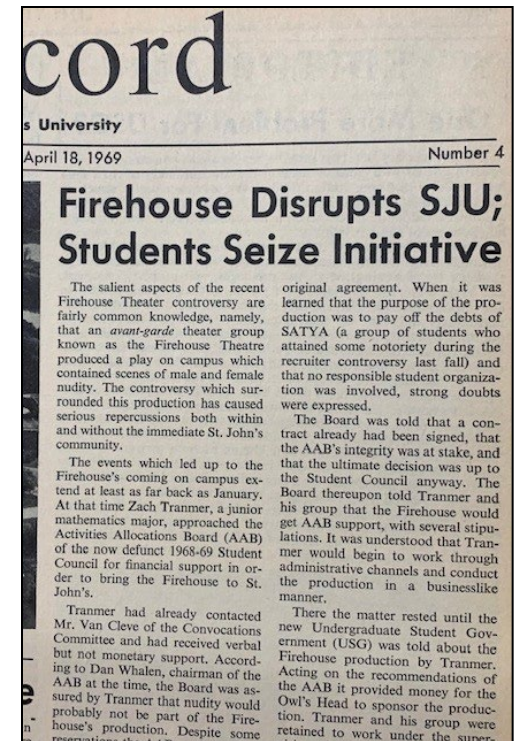
- March 7, 1969
- Black weekend brings brothers to SJ campus
 - “An experiment in understanding” between the white and Black races
 - Another goal: provide time, place for Black students from Minnesota, North Dakota and Wisconsin colleges to meet
 - Discussion of common goals, problems



Everyday People.

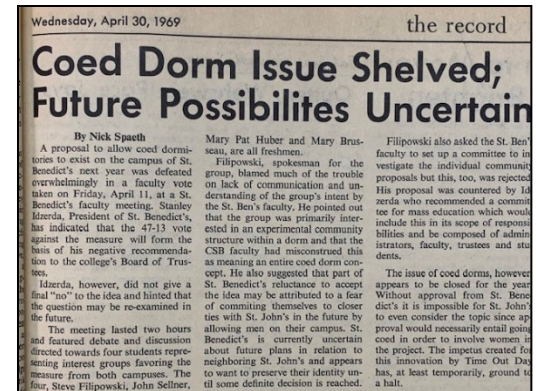
Record headline

- April 18, 1969
- Firehouse disrupts SJU; students seize initiative
 - Avant-garde theater group stages “play containing scenes of male and female nudity”
 - Zach Tranmer sought funding from Activities Allocation Board
 - AAB chair Dan Whalen reportedly unaware of nudity



Record headline

- April 30, 1969
- Coed dorm issue shelved
 - Proposal for CSB housing voted down by faculty 47-13
 - CSB President Idzerda “hinted that the question may be re-examined in the future”
 - Student group wanted experimental community
 - Not advocating for a co-ed dorm
 - Suggested CSB afraid of “closer ties with SJU in the future by allowing men on their campus”



American Woman.

Record headline

- September 26, 1969
 - “Community education project”
 - Adjacent Avon apartment rentals
 - Steve Muth, Tom Macy, Ron Silvers, Jim Zwicker and several Bennies
- Also that fall
 - Johnnies win Mineral Water Bowl
 - Ray Rossini suggests recruiting Protestants
 - “Few Protestants or Jews have seen fit to apply”



Protestants at St. John's?

By Ray Rossini

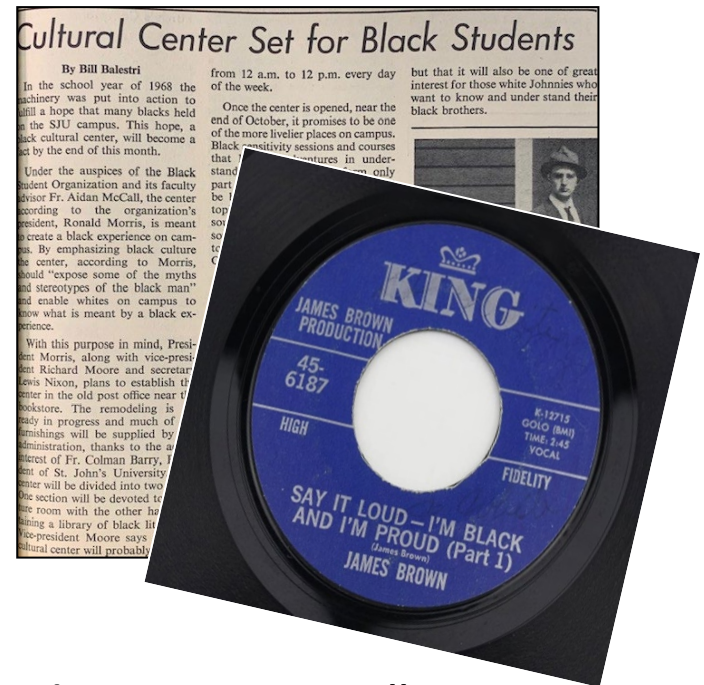
In a country which is roughly 20 percent Catholic and in a university which purports to be somehow universal, it is hard to understand why St. John's hasn't long since made a determined effort to recruit non-Catholic students.

Qualified non-Catholic students have long since been accepted by SJU. In fact, St. John's has made great strides towards the comfort of non-Catholic students; it has introduced a Protestant chaplain to salvage Protestant souls; it has built an ecumenical center; and it has this year conjured a Jewish Chair. But for some reason few Protestants or Jews have seen fit to apply for enrollment. As the barriers between "the New Chosen People" and their "misguided non-Papist friends" slowly dissolve, non-Catholic influence here becomes little of a crying need. But we at SJU should no longer ignore the wealth of Protestant and Jewish talent which is ignoring or not even considering St. John's.

Oh Happy Day.

Record headline

- October 10, 1969
- Cultural center set for Black students
 - Black Student Organization
 - Supported by SJU President Colman Barry, OSB
 - Ron Morris, president
 - “Oppose some of the myths and stereotypes”
 - “Enable whites on campus to know what is meant by a black experience” with “rapping,” Black speakers, movies, dances and a Black newspaper (Marcus Ahmed, editor)



Record headline

- October 10, 1969
- Students act to end Vietnam; moratorium planned for Oct. 15
 - Vietnam Moratorium Day
“being observed across the country”
 - “Taking the issue of peace in Vietnam to the larger community”
 - SJU Undergraduate Student Government asks students, faculty to cut class
 - Sen. McCarthy to join in a march to the U.N.

In “Quote of the Week,” a regular Record front-page feature, Mike Ford said “Paul McCartney got his uniform from Sgt. Pepper.”

We Gotta Get Out of this Place.

Record columns

- Ancient Pale by Blackburn, O'Meara
 - “The appearance of this column marks the end of another. ‘Strange Bedfellows’ is dead. And rightly so. Book-reviewing is a bore.”
- Through Bloodshot Eyes by Mayer, Hennessey
 - “Like most inebriated conversations, this one was shallow and without much factual content”



Normally heady features

- Tim Blackburn and Jim O'Meara
 - Initial column challenged Bob Dylan's lyrics in Nashville Skyline
 - “What we will be is a column for the hip intellectual, the artsy-craftsy, the dilettante”
 - “And thrills we offer, and always wit”
- Dan Mayer and Mike Hennessey
 - “If we were just half as interested in learning how to live together as we are in killing each other we might get someplace”



Lay, Lady, Lay.

Record headline

- December 16, 1969
- The Moirae dictate draft lottery dates
 - Pat Sweeney reflects on fate and the Dec. 1 draft lottery

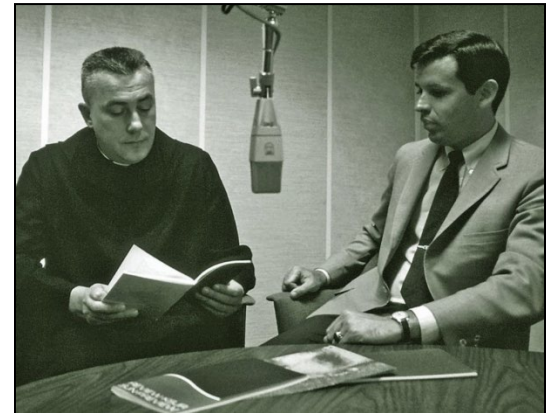
| | JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | JUN | JUL | AUG | SEP | OCT | NOV | DEC |
|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 1 | 305 | 086 | 108 | 032 | 330 | 249 | 093 | 111 | 225 | 359 | 019 | 129 |
| 2 | 159 | 144 | 029 | 271 | 298 | 228 | 350 | 045 | 161 | 125 | 034 | 328 |
| 3 | 251 | 297 | 267 | 083 | 040 | 301 | 115 | 261 | 049 | 244 | 348 | 157 |
| 4 | 215 | 210 | 275 | 081 | 276 | 020 | 279 | 145 | 232 | 202 | 266 | 165 |
| 5 | 101 | 214 | 293 | 269 | 364 | 028 | 188 | 054 | 082 | 024 | 310 | 056 |
| 6 | 224 | 347 | 139 | 253 | 155 | 110 | 327 | 114 | 006 | 087 | 076 | 010 |
| 7 | 306 | 091 | 122 | 147 | 035 | 085 | 050 | 168 | 008 | 234 | 051 | 012 |
| 8 | 199 | 181 | 213 | 312 | 221 | 366 | 013 | 048 | 184 | 283 | 097 | 105 |
| 9 | 194 | 328 | 317 | 219 | 197 | 325 | 277 | 106 | 263 | 342 | 080 | 043 |
| 10 | 325 | 216 | 323 | 218 | 065 | 206 | 284 | 021 | 071 | 220 | 282 | 041 |
| 11 | 329 | 150 | 136 | 014 | 037 | 134 | 248 | 324 | 158 | 237 | 046 | 039 |
| 12 | 221 | 068 | 300 | 346 | 133 | 272 | 015 | 142 | 242 | 072 | 066 | 314 |
| 13 | 318 | 152 | 259 | 124 | 295 | 069 | 042 | 307 | 175 | 138 | 126 | 163 |
| 14 | 238 | 004 | 354 | 231 | 178 | 356 | 331 | 198 | 001 | 294 | 127 | 026 |
| 15 | 017 | 089 | 169 | 273 | 130 | 180 | 322 | 102 | 113 | 171 | 131 | 320 |
| 16 | 121 | 212 | 166 | 148 | 055 | 274 | 120 | 044 | 207 | 254 | 107 | 096 |
| 17 | 235 | 189 | 033 | 260 | 112 | 073 | 098 | 154 | 255 | 288 | 143 | 304 |
| 18 | 140 | 292 | 332 | 090 | 278 | 341 | 190 | 141 | 246 | 005 | 146 | 128 |
| 19 | 058 | 025 | 200 | 336 | 075 | 104 | 227 | 311 | 177 | 241 | 203 | 240 |
| 20 | 280 | 302 | 239 | 345 | 183 | 260 | 187 | 344 | 063 | 192 | 185 | 135 |
| 21 | 186 | 363 | 334 | 062 | 250 | 060 | 027 | 291 | 204 | 243 | 156 | 070 |
| 22 | 337 | 290 | 265 | 316 | 326 | 247 | 153 | 339 | 160 | 117 | 009 | 053 |
| 23 | 118 | 057 | 256 | 252 | 319 | 109 | 172 | 116 | 119 | 201 | 182 | 162 |
| 24 | 059 | 236 | 258 | 002 | 031 | 358 | 023 | 036 | 195 | 196 | 230 | 095 |
| 25 | 052 | 179 | 343 | 351 | 361 | 137 | 067 | 286 | 149 | 176 | 132 | 084 |
| 26 | 092 | 365 | 170 | 340 | 357 | 022 | 303 | 245 | 018 | 007 | 309 | 173 |
| 27 | 355 | 205 | 268 | 074 | 296 | 064 | 289 | 352 | 233 | 264 | 047 | 078 |
| 28 | 077 | 299 | 223 | 262 | 308 | 222 | 088 | 167 | 257 | 094 | 281 | 123 |
| 29 | 349 | 285 | 362 | 191 | 226 | 353 | 270 | 061 | 101 | 239 | 099 | 016 |
| 30 | 164 | --- | 217 | 208 | 103 | 209 | 287 | 323 | 315 | 058 | 174 | 003 |
| 31 | 211 | --- | 030 | --- | 313 | --- | 193 | 011 | --- | 079 | --- | 100 |

- “The Greeks had a deep reverence for the Moirae. Not even the gods could challenge the Moirae”
- Regarding what the lottery meant, Charlie Hanish notes that “some guys got out [of the draft]... Before the lottery, everyone was up in the air”

Leaving on a Jet Plane.

Record headline

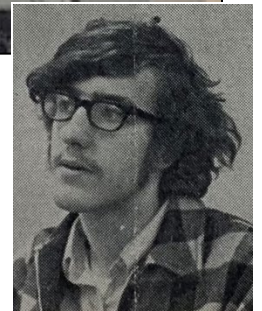
- February 13, 1970
- Fr. Colman asked to remain as president
 - Completes first six years in office
 - “His term has seen remarkable accomplishments “
 - Building programs
 - Public relations
 - Faculty quality and salaries
 - New curriculum



Everything Is Beautiful.

Record headline

- March 13, 1970
 - Black Weekend
 - Getting it together
 - Blackburn receives Woodrow Wilson Fellowship
 - Designated among “the most intellectually promising”



Everything Is Beautiful.

Record headline

- April 15, 1970
 - Inaugural Earth Day on April 22
 - Campus activities coordinated by Bob Mattison
- May 15, 1970
 - Black leader to address graduates
 - Rev. Andrew Young
 - “Widely recognized advocate of nonviolent social change”
 - Mayor of Atlanta; U.S. ambassador to the United Nations



Everything Is Beautiful.

1969-70: in our ears, on our minds

- Elvis Presley's last #1 hit Suspicious Minds
- Pre-draft physicals
- The Military Ball
- Kent State
- Wedding proposals
- Final finals as Johnnies; job interviews
- Free Your Mind ... and Your Ass Will Follow
 - Album produced in Spring 1970 by Funkadelic



Everything Is Beautiful.

Also that spring in The Record

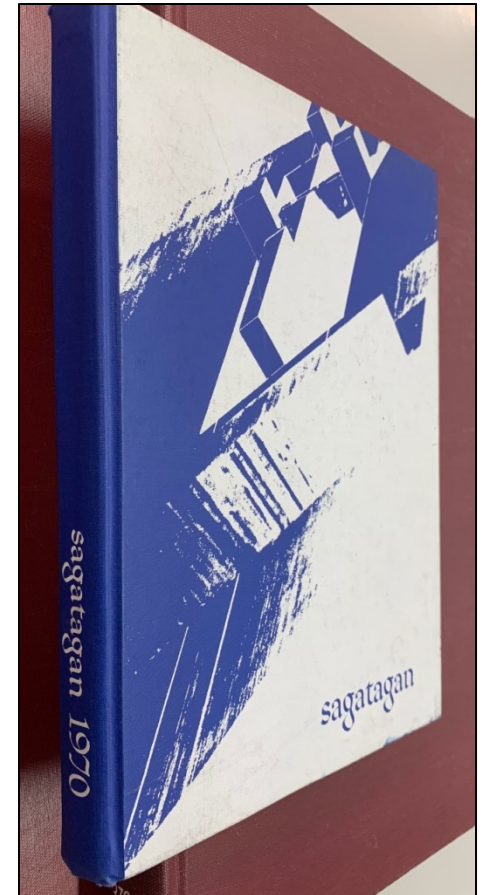
- Axel Theimer named to succeed Gerhard Track
- Finlayson, Lundy and the distance runners pace Jays to conference track championship
 - “Knocked Macalester from its 11-year title seat”
- Special Record interview with Jamie Volin
 - Tennis team captain “speaks on tennis team”
 - Coach Ray Rossini “not available”



Everything Is Beautiful.

Commencement May 24

- Yours truly was two credits short
 - Took evening class at Trenton State
 - Drug abuse awareness course
 - Aimed at high school coaches, nurses
 - Overheard a conversation about the risqué lyrics in Simon and Garfunkel's latest hit song
 - Conflicting with the propriety of Somewhere My Love
 - Reflecting the changes witnessed September 1966 to May 1970



Somewhere, my love?

- Ray Conniff
 - Somewhere my love
 - There will be songs to sing
 - Although the snow
 - Covers the hope of spring
- Simon and Garfunkel
 - Making love in the afternoon
 - With Cecilia up in my bedroom
 - I got up to wash my face
 - When I come back to bed
someone's taken my place



Somewhere My Love. Cecilia.

So how did we get Cecilia
up to the bedroom?

Cecilia.

The blame lies on . . .

- Overall cultural shift between 1966 and 1970
 - The Summer of Love
 - Risqué song lyrics and album titles
 - Contributions from SJU
 - No more Saturday classes
 - January Term in Florida
 - Campus protests, chaos
 - Firehouse Theatre “nude play”
 - Ellenbecker and Lamb at Woodstock

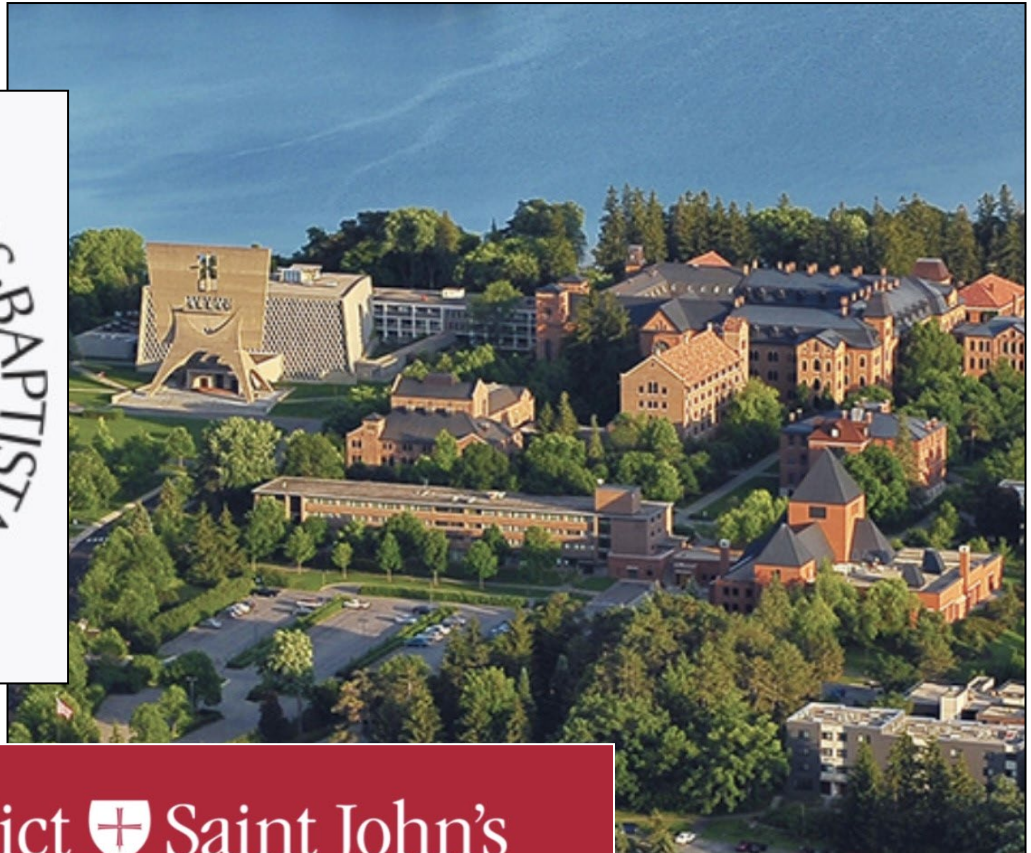


Let It Be.

So *who* got her
up to the bedroom?

Let It Be.

Let it be Saint John's Class of '70



COLLEGE OF
Saint Benedict  Saint John's
UNIVERSITY

Let It Be.

List of songs

- Abba Dabba Honeymoon.
The Three Stooges
- 96 Tears. ? and the Mysterians
 - Somewhere My Love.
The Mike Sammes Singers
 - Light My Fire. The Doors
 - Hair. Original London Cast
- Hungry. Paul Revere and the Raiders
- Harlem Shuffle. The Fabulous Flippers
 - The Good, the Bad, the Ugly.
Hugo Montenegro
 - Abraham, Martin and John.
Smokey Robinson and the Miracles
- Why Don't We Do It in the Road.
The Beatles
 - Hey Jude. The Beatles
- Everyday People. Sly and the Family Stone
 - American Woman. The Guess Who
- Oh Happy Day. Edwin Hawkins Singers
- Say It Loud, I'm Black and I'm Proud.
James Brown
- We Gotta Get Out of This Place.
The Animals
 - Lay Lady Lay. Bob Dylan
 - Leaving on a Jet Plane.
Peter, Paul and Mary
- Everything Is Beautiful. Ray Stevens
 - Somewhere My Love.
The Mike Sammes Singers
- Cecilia. Simon and Garfunkel
 - Let It Be. The Beatles

Addenda follows



Slide additions October 24, 2021

- Fr. Walter Reger, OSB Distinguished Alumni
- SJU Board members from the Class of 1970
- Alumni Association Board members
- Alumni Achievement Award recipients
- Class giving totals to the University

Distinguished Alumnus Awards

- Fr. Walter Reger Award
 - Highest award presented by the Alumni Association
 - Presented annually since 1971
- Recipients from the Class of 1970
 - John Agee
 - Dick Nigon
 - Dan Whalen
 - Thom Woodward



Class members who served as SJU Regents/Trustees

- John Agee
- Tom Andert, OSB
- Pat Ellingsworth
- Dick Nigon
- Dan Whalen who also served as SJU president

*Note: Tom Andert, OSB, and Linus Ascherman, OSB,
served as headmaster at Saint John's Prep School.*

Members of the Alumni Board

- John Agee, past president
- Mike Ford
- Bill Johnson, past president
- John Krueger, past president
- Dick Nigon
- Bill O'Connell

Alumni Achievement Awards

- Bill “Oak” O’Connell presented posthumously at the 50-year reunion by Joe Noack
- Steve Lipinski presented at the 50-year reunion by Bob Mattison
- Marcus Ahmed presented posthumously at the 50-year reunion by John Adams ‘77
- Previous recipients
 - Andy Biebl Mike Hennessey Mike Howlett
 - Dick Nigon Mike Marchand Fr. Mike Tegeder

Bill “Oak” O’Connell



Steve Lapinski



Marcus Ahmed



Class gift totals

- Fiscal Year 2020 donations to SJU
 - Fifty-year class gift
 - 115 donors
 - \$2,905,820 total
- Lifetime cumulative giving by the Class of '70
 - 335 donors over the 50 years
 - \$26,271,019 total
 - \$525,420 annual average



Class gift totals

